IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 12, 13 and 16-26 and add claims 27-44 as indicated in the following Listing of All Pending Claims of the present application.

Listing of All Pending Claims

27. (Newly added) A method for a wireless communications device to participate in an instant messaging service on a data network, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing an active communication state between the wireless communications device and a wireless network to indicate that the wireless communications device is present on the wireless network;

establishing a communication channel between the wireless communications device and the wireless network to request activation of an active message state for the wireless communications device;

disconnecting the communication channel between the wireless communications device and the wireless network while maintaining the active communication state;

sending an indication from the wireless network to a short message service (SMS) center that the wireless communications device is requesting activation of the active message state;

the SMS center sending the indication to a proxy server on the data network to establish presence information for the wireless communications device;

transmitting from the proxy server to the instant messaging service the presence information indicating that the wireless communications device is in the active message state, the proxy server maintaining the presence information for the wireless communications device until the wireless network sends an indication to the SMS center that the wireless communications device is in a non-active message state.

28. (Newly added)   The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

receiving at the proxy server an instant message from a sender on the data network, the instant message addressed to a user of the wireless communications

device;

storing the instant message on the proxy server; and

notifying the user through the SMS center and the wireless network that the instant message has been received.

29. (Newly added)   The method of claim 28, wherein the step of notifying comprises the steps of:

sending at least a portion of the instant message to the SMS center;

converting the at least a portion of the instant message from instant message format to short message service format; and

sending the converted message from the SMS center to the user through the wireless network.

30. (Newly added)   The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

converting an identifier of the sender of the instant message from the instant message format to short message service format; and

sending the identifier to the user in conjunction with the converted message.

31. (Newly added)   The method of claim 28, wherein the step of notifying further comprises the step of:

sending the instant message to the SMS center;

converting the instant message from instant message format to short message service format; and

sending the converted message from the SMS center to the user through the wireless network.

32. (Newly added)   The method of claim 31, wherein the step of sending the converted message from the SMS center to the user comprises the steps of:

establishing a second communication channel between the wireless communications device and the wireless network;

transmitting the converted message to the wireless communications device over the second communication channel, and

disconnecting the second communication channel between the wireless communications device and the wireless network.

33. (Newly added)   The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

sending a response message transmitted in short message service format from the wireless network to the SMS center;

converting the response message to instant message format;

sending the converted response message to the proxy server; and

transmitting the converted response message over the data network.

34. (Newly added)   The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting at least one message in short message service format to the wireless network for delivery to the wireless communications device;

determining that the at least one message in short message service format is undeliverable to the wireless communications device;

sending an indication from the wireless network to the SMS center that the wireless communications device is in the non-active message state; and

removing the presence information from the proxy server.

35. (Newly added) A system for providing a wireless communications device access to an instant messaging service on a data network, the instant messaging service communicating instant messages in an instant message format, the system comprising:

a wireless network for sending and receiving short messages in a short message service (SMS) format to and from the wireless communications device, the wireless communications device communicating an active message state to the wireless network to indicate that the wireless communications device is present to send and receive the short messages;

a short message service (SMS) center connected to the wireless network for receiving the active message state, the SMS center for converting the instant messages in the instant message format to the short messages in the SMS format, and for converting the short messages in the SMS format to the instant messages in the instant message format, the SMS center for communicating the active message state to a proxy server;

the proxy server having a first connection to the SMS center and a second connection to a data network, the proxy server for logging into the instant messaging service upon receipt of the active message state, the proxy server providing a proxy presence for the wireless communications device when the wireless communications device is in the active message state; and

a plurality of information handling systems connected to the data network and logged into the instant messaging service for sending and receiving the instant messages.

36. (Newly added) The system of claim 35, wherein the proxy server intercepts one instant message that is addressed to the wireless communications device, and notifies the wireless network through the SMS center that the one instant message addressed to the wireless communications device has been received.

37. (Newly added) The system of claim 36, wherein the SMS center converts at least a portion of the intercepted one instant message to the short message format, and sends a converted message to the wireless communications device through the wireless network.

38. (Newly added) The system of claim 37, wherein the SMS center further converts an identifier of the sender of the intercepted one instant message to the short message format and sends the converted identifier of the sender in conjunction the converted message.

39. (Newly added) The system of claim 36, wherein the proxy server stores the intercepted instant message.

40. (Newly added) The system of claim 36, wherein the SMS center stores the intercepted instant message.

41. (Newly added) The system of claim 35, wherein the SMS center receives a response short message from the wireless communications device that is addressed to an information handling system of the plurality of information handling systems, converts the response short message to an instant message format response message, and sends the instant message response message to the information handling system.

42. (Newly added) The system claim 35, wherein the SMS center receives an indication that the wireless communications device is in an inactive message state, and wherein the SMS center communicates the inactive message state to the proxy server, and wherein the proxy server removes the proxy presence upon receipt of the indication that the wireless communications device in the inactive message state.

43. (Newly added) A method for providing a wireless communications device access to an instant messaging service connected to a data network, the method comprising the steps of:

   communicating an active message state status from the wireless communications device to a wireless network;

   transmitting the active message state status from the wireless network to a short message service (SMS) center;

   the SMS center communicating to a proxy server that the wireless communications devices is in the active message state status; and

   the proxy server establishing presence information with the instant messaging service upon receipt of the SMS center communication that the wireless communications device is in the active message state status.

44. (Newly added) The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

the proxy server intercepting at least one instant message intended for the wireless communications device;

sending the at least one instant message to the SMS center;

the SMS center converting at least a portion of the at least one instant message to an SMS formatted message;

the SMS center sending the SMS formatted message to the wireless network; and

the wireless network communicating the SMS formatted message to the wireless communications device.